Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /076 W

-----121743 061100Z /17

R 060956Z SEP 78
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1930
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
CINCPAC

CONFIDENTIAL PEKING 2785

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PDIP, LY, TW, CH

SUBJ: SINO-LIBYAN RELATIONS

REF: PEKING 2748

1. IN A CONVERSATION SEPTEMBER 4 WITH A USLO OFFICER, MFA AMERICAN AND OCEANIAN AFFAIRS ACTING DIRECTOR CHU CHI-CHEN WARNED THAT PEKING'S RECENT NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH LIBYA SHOULD NOT BE MISUNDERSTOOD. THE PRC HAD NOT CHANGED ITS POLICY, HE SAID, AND NO EMBASSY WOULD BE ESTABLISHED IN TRIPOLI AS LONG AS THERE WAS AN OFFICIAL ROC PRESENCE IN THAT CAPITAL.

2. COMMENT: PRC OFFICIALS SEEM TO BE GOING OUT OF THEIR WAY TO COUNTER RUMORS THAT THE SIGNATURE OF THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE WITH LIBYA MARKED A NEW DEPARTURE IN PRC POLICY TOWARD TAIWAN. DESPITE THE EXISTENCE OF PRECEDENTS FOR THIS CONFIDENTIAL

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TYPE OF COMMUNIQUE, SPECULATION IS RIFE IN PEKING THAT THE LIBYAN ACTION, TAKEN TOGETHER WITH CONGRESSMAN WOLFF'S REPORT OF HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH PRC LEADERS AND THE RECENT PRC ATTENDANCE AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HIGH ENERGY PHYSICS IN TOKYO, SHOWS A NEW PRC FLEXIBILITY ON THE TAIWAN ISSUE. CHINESE OFFICIALS' EFFORTS TO PUT AN END TO THIS SPECULATION ARE MADE DOUBLY DIFFICULT BY THE CON-

TINUED ABSENCE OF ANY NEWS FROM TRIPOLI THAT THE ROC EMBASSY
HAS REEN TOLD TO CLOSE UP SHOP, WOODCOCK

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NNN

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